



Fact Sheet

Water Use Efficiency Rule

Goal-Setting and Performance Reporting Requirements

April 2006

DOH PUB. #331-305
(Revised)

Background

One of the three elements of the Department of Health's (DOH) proposed draft water use efficiency rule is water use efficiency goal-setting and performance reporting. Municipal water suppliers would be required to set water use efficiency goals through a public process and report annually on their performance to customers, to DOH, and also make this information available to the public.

Water Use Efficiency Rule Schedule

July 2006 – Mail proposed rule
August 2006 – Public hearings
August to September 2006 – Review formal comments & finalize rule
September 2006 – Adopt rule
October 2006 – Effective date

Water Use Efficiency Goal-Setting

The proposed draft rule states that all municipal water suppliers would need to set their first water use efficiency goals by July of 2007 and re-evaluate those goals every six years. These water use efficiency goals would need to be set through a public process. The purpose is to include the public in the water use efficiency planning process. The proposed draft rule also contains public process requirements. Municipal water suppliers may use their existing public processes, as long as they meet these requirements.

All municipal water suppliers would need to set water use efficiency goals, and record these goals in planning documents and performance reports. When setting its water use efficiency goals, the municipal water supplier would be required to:

- Include a measurable outcome in terms of water production or consumption (for example: reduce peak production volumes by 5 percent, maintain current single family residential use at 300 gallons per day, reduce leakage from 30 percent to 10 percent).
- Address supply or demand characteristics.
- Include an implementation schedule.

Performance Report Content

All municipal water suppliers would need to report annually on their water use efficiency performance to customers, to DOH, and also make this information available to the public. The proposed draft rule would require this report to be submitted annually by July 1. This due date would allow municipal water suppliers to include performance information in their Consumer Confidence Report (an annual water quality report mailed to customers).



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

Performance reports would need to include the following elements:

- Annual water system production total.
- Annual distribution system leakage information (see Fact Sheet *Distribution Leakage Standard*, DOH PUB-304 for more details).
- A description of the progress made toward achieving water use efficiency goals. Until a municipal water supplier is fully metered, they would need to report annually on their progress toward installing meters on all service connections (required by 2016).

Performance Reporting Schedule

For municipal water suppliers with 1,000 or more connections, the first performance report would be due July 1, 2008.

For municipal water suppliers with fewer than 1,000 connections, the first performance report would be due July 1, 2009.

For More Information

If you have comments or questions about the proposed draft rule, please contact:

Theresa Phillips, Rules Coordinator
Department of Health
P.O. Box 47822
Olympia, WA 98504-7822
Phone: 360-236-3147
Fax: 360-236-2253
E-mail: theresa.phillips@doh.wa.gov

Additional information can be found on the Web at:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal_water/municipal_water_law.htm

